



**BRENT
WALTZ**

State Senate — District 36

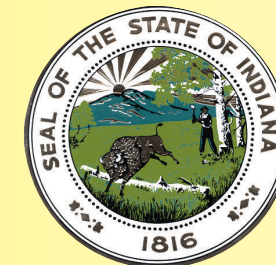
2006 Legislative Update

Prst Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit No. 7767



**BRENT
WALTZ**

State Senate — District 36



2006 Summer Update

Dear Friends,

Economic development remains a major focus of mine as we approach the 2007 General Assembly. It is an indisputable fact that the cost of government goes up every year. Rising gasoline prices, higher insurance premiums and the increase in employee salaries are factors for these increases.

There are only two ways that government can get more money:

1. Government can raise taxes – based on income, amount of gasoline used or the value of homes or other properties. Indiana has gone from the 32nd **least** taxed state to the 17th **most** taxed state.
2. Government can expand the economy, put more people to work and allow the growing prosperity to increase the amount of money government receives.

I think we can all agree that growing the economy is the better method.

Indiana has made a remarkable recovery since the depths of the recession earlier this decade. It's only been a few years since Indiana lost over 100,000 manufacturing jobs. This was more than a staggering statistic. We all know friends and families whose economic future was put in jeopardy by these job losses. As Hoosiers slowly dig out from this economic downturn, we must be cautiously optimistic since higher gasoline prices and rising interest rates could have a negative impact on our economic growth.

In spite of these challenges, we are making excellent progress. While there is much more work to do, I am proud of what has been accomplished. If we all continue to work together, I have no doubt that Indiana's future will be bright.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely,

Brent Waltz

Brent Waltz
State Senator,
District 36



In This Issue:

Balanced Budget
PAGE 2

New Economic Development
PAGE 2

Alternative Fuels
PAGE 3

Gasoline Saving Tips
PAGE 3



PLAY BALL! Senator Waltz throws out the first pitch at the Indianapolis Indians game on June 2.

Stay connected:

Visit my legislative web site
at www.in.gov/S36
and read news releases,
review new laws,
or send me an e-mail.

Or contact me at:
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

(800) 382-9467

s36@in.gov

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOPS STATE GOAL

I have always considered a successful Indiana economy and balancing our state's budget to be directly related. Seeing more Hoosiers going back to work is a welcome sight. Likewise, having more companies expanding their operations in our state will result in the double benefit of more jobs and a higher tax base.

A growing economy is not enough to guarantee fiscal success in Indiana government. A reasonable and responsible budget that holds the line on spending is equally important. **For the fiscal year ending in June 2006, Indiana had the first balanced budget in a decade.**

I am pleased to report that our state has a \$371 million surplus instead of the \$600 million deficit only a year earlier. This billion dollar change was accomplished without the budget gimmicks and trickery of years past.

Money traditionally was transferred from public schools and local governments, costing millions of dollars in interest payments. This unsound fiscal policy took money from education, public safety and road maintenance. This practice can no longer be tolerated.

It's not enough to simply reduce the growth of government. It is

equally vital to know where government should focus its resources. The budget increased Medicaid spending by 5 percent. An additional \$250 million was spent to improve our public schools and 400 child caseworkers were added to protect abused and exploited children.



Senator Waltz (pictured at left) and Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman tour Endress & Hauser after the announcement of new jobs coming to the Greenwood facility.

It is important to continue Indiana's economic growth in order to stop the seemingly endless cycle of tax increases. In order to achieve this goal, I have dedicated much effort to encourage job creation and economic development in Indiana. Government does not create jobs, but we can assist in the economic success of Hoosiers by establishing a worker friendly and supportive business environment.

Perry Township is fortunate to have two organizations committed to economic revitalization. Local businessman Jeff Cardwell plays a vital role in organizing a group of local business people along Madison Avenue and US 31 in the Southern Plaza area. Dr. Rob Thoman leads a similar group in Southport. I would like to congratulate both organizations for their selfless dedication to economic development in our community.

Spotlight on Jobs

HONDA

Honda recently announced that Greensburg, Indiana is the location for their new North American automobile plant. The plant is a \$550 million investment in our state.

The new facility, which will begin production in the fall of 2008, will employ 2,000 people with the capacity to expand and hire an additional 2,000.

The plant will have an annual production capacity for 200,000 fuel efficient 4-cylinder vehicles.

FED EX

Federal Express announced in April a \$200 million expansion creating 800 new jobs at the Indianapolis Airport.

The expansion will increase package processing capacity by more than 30 percent—from 75,000 packages per hour to 99,000 packages per hour.

The plan calls for a 400,000-square-foot expansion to the hub's existing sort facility and construction of a 175,000-square-foot secondary sort building.

Endress & Hauser

Endress & Hauser recently broke ground on a 92,000 square foot expansion in Greenwood. This \$17 million dollar investment will bring high paying jobs to our community.

The new facility will be dedicated to the manufacturing and calibration of electromagnetic flow meters and will bring the companies facilities to over 200,000 square feet.

Endress & Hauser is a global leader in the production of measurement instrumentation, services and solutions for industrial process engineering.

Alternative Energy Fuels Indiana's Economy

Last year, the Clean Indiana Energy law rapidly advanced Indiana's standing as a leader in new fuel technology. Currently, six ethanol plants have broken ground in Indiana with another 18 on the drawing board.

This is a growing industry. Other states are starting to see the benefits of investing in alternative fuels. In order to maintain our leadership in the industry, we passed Clean Indiana Energy II in Senate Enrolled Act 353.

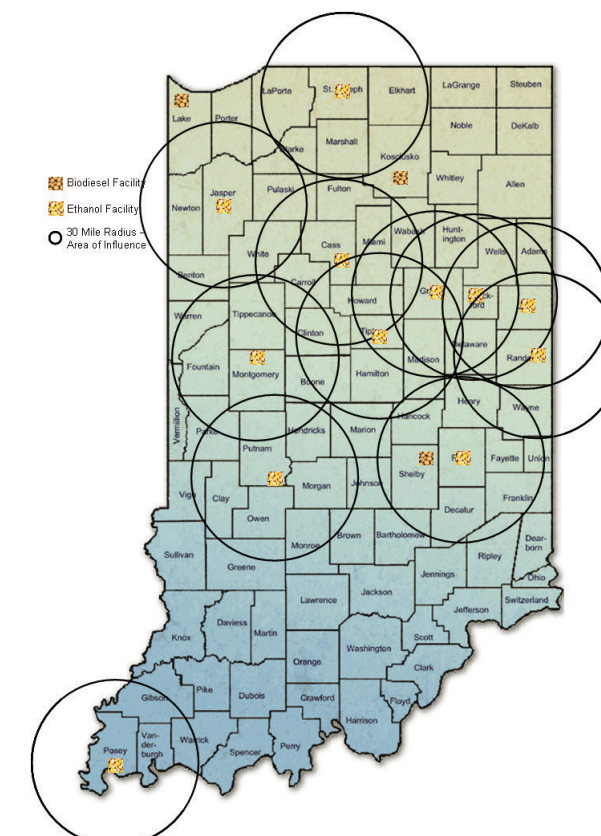
We must ensure Indiana remains a leader in new fuel technology. Senate Enrolled Act 353 established a \$50 million tax credit, up from \$20 million, for new ethanol and/or biodiesel production facilities. Ethanol production plants cost approximately \$79 million or more to build, and they don't receive the tax breaks until they are making a profit in our state. **These new facilities will bring over \$1.1 billion in new investments to Indiana.**

Ethanol and biodiesel production has a positive impact on Indiana farmers. Indiana is the fifth largest state for corn production and fourth largest in soybeans. These are the two key elements associated with ethanol/biodiesel production.

Currently, Indiana sends nearly 50 percent of its corn and soybean productions out of state with no values added, which is the least profitable form of sale for farmers. It is estimated that farmers contracting with ethanol or biodiesel plants will gain an incremental 15 cents to 20 cents per bushel.

Senate Enrolled Act 353 also establishes a "retail tax credit" of 10 cents per gallon up to a maximum of \$2 million over the next two years of E85 fuel sold to consumers. If retailers reach the maximum of the \$2 million credit, Indiana will have sold over 20 million gallons of E85 in two years. This is a great incentive for retailers to encourage consumers to purchase E85 fuels.

Indiana also boasts dozens of new fueling stations. There are



more than 50 biodiesel pumps and 40 E85 pumps across the state.

With this amazing progress in such a short time, I am encouraged that these proposals can help us reach our long term energy needs. I am very proud of the fact that Indiana is leading the nation in this area. The passage of Senate Enrolled Act 353 is great news for both our environment and our economy.

Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline

Over the past several months, Hoosiers have seen gasoline prices skyrocket, putting a real strain on budgets. I have compiled a list of gasoline saving tips to help reduce the amount of gasoline you use. For more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at www.indianaconsumer.com

Drive Sensibly: Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent in city driving.

Observe the Speed Limit: Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

Avoid Excessive Idling: Idling gets zero miles per gallon and cars with larger engines generally waste more gasoline when idling.

Use Cruise Control: Cruise control on the highway helps to maintain a constant speed and will help improve your gasoline mileage.

Use Overdrive Gears: Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speed, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Check & Replace Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gasoline mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated: Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure can improve your gasoline mileage by around 3 percent.

Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gasoline mileage by 1 to 2 percent.